Expenses on research work by companies

†2654. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 86 per cent companies in the country fail to spend any amount on research work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to encourage expenses on research work by companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Information about expenditure on research and development by companies is not compiled or maintained by the Department of Company Affairs.

Security features on high value denomination notes

2655. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is considering more security features on high value denomination currency;

(b) if so, whether this move is to combat counterfeit currency that match even the strands when shown up under Ultra Violet Rays; and

(c) whether intelligence sources say that most fake currency notes originate from Persian gulf region but are not sure where these are prodcued?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian bank notes contain both overt and covert security features which are upgraded from time to time. In order to check the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

menace of counterfeiting, some additional security features have been approved for incorporation in Indian bank notes.

(c) As per the information available, some of the important seizures of fake Indian currency notes effected include consignments smuggled from the Gulf region.

Mobilisation of small deposits by States

2656. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire amount of small deposits mobilized by the States which were earlier accesible to the State Government as loans will henceforth be available only to the tune of 70 percent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee on Administered Interest Rates and Other Related Issues, entire (100%) net small savings collections are deemed to be transferred to the State Governments w.e.f. 1.4.2002, up from the then applicable share of 80%.

In accordance with another recommendation of the said Committee, the Central Government has formulated a 'Debt Swap Scheme' to enable the State Governments to replace their past high cost loans by, *Inter-alia*, utilising the incremental share of the current small savings collections (20% of net collections released from September to March during 2002-03 and 30% during 2003-04). All State Governments are participating in the scheme during the current financial year.

Expansion of insurance operators

2657. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Insurance Regulatory and